

Supporting life-saving research, funding

A young Phoenix constituent recently met with Rep. Ed Pastor to discuss Type I diabetes and the need for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of a key technology to help patients like herself.

Ke'Arrah Williams, 14, and her family, who advocate for the Juveniles Diabetes Research Foundation, emphasized their support for the FDA to publish guidelines for outpatient trials to begin for a new technology called "artificial pancreas."

The technology enables people to automatically control blood glucose levels with an insulin pump and a sensor. It would help diabetics avoid both high and dangerous low blood glucose levels, significantly reducing the risk of devastating and costly complications.



Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation advocates Farrah Barge, her daughters Ke'Arrah Williams and Je'Karrah Barge, and their uncle Leander Louis.

Progress towards an "artificial pancreas" has been greatly enhanced by Congress' strong support of the Special Diabetes Program, which has funded critical research to test early "artificial pancreas" systems.

Expansion of health care facilities in district will improve care quality, options

The constituents of the Fourth Congressional District will experience an improvement in health care quality, access and options with the opening of new facilities in the district, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor.

New Burn Center at St. Luke's Medical Center

St. Luke's Medical Center, 1800 E. Van Buren St., Phoenix, established a new Grossman Burn Center specializing in a multidisciplinary approach. The center seeks to provide live-saving medical care and restore patients as close to their pre-injury condition as possible—functionally, emotionally and cosmetically.

Mountain Park's new clinic in Maryvale

A new Mountain Park

Health Center clinic has opened in the Marviale area of west Phoenix. The clinic, which is federally-funded, expects to see 20,000 patients through 60,000 medical visits yearly.

The clinic also created new jobs in the district, employing 100 people, and invested \$6 million in the community.

MIHS affiliation with University of Arizona College of Medicine, District Medical Group

An affiliation agreement approved recently between Maricopa Integrated Health System, District Medical Group and the University of Arizona College of Medicine will strengthen medical education in Arizona.

"The agreement will draw top students who will receive an excellent medical education and will improve the quality of health care delivered to constituents," Pastor said.



Congressman Pastor discusses health care improvements that will occur as a result of the affiliation of Maricopa Integrated Health System, District Medical Group and the University of Arizona College of Medicine with Dr. Kote Chundu, his daughter Amita and wife Rupa.

Congressional mobile office sites for 2012

To bring congressional services closer to your neighborhoods, a staff member from Congressman Pastor's Phoenix Office will be at these locations on the dates below from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Adam Diaz Senior Center
4115 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix
April 10, July 10, Sept. 11

Chinese Senior Center, 734 W. Elm St., Phoenix
Jan. 10

Desert West Community Center
6501 W. Virginia, Phoenix
May 8

Golden Gate Community Center
1625 N. 39th Ave., Phoenix
June 12, Oct. 9

Marcos de Niza Senior Center
305 W. Pima St., Phoenix
March 13, Aug. 14

Senior Opportunities Center
1220 S. 7th Ave., Phoenix
Feb. 14

South Mountain Community Center
212 E. Alta Vista, Phoenix
Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 6, April 2, May 8, June 5

Glendale Community Center
5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale
Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 20, April 17, May 15

Guadalupe Senior Center
9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe
Jan. 24, Feb. 28, March 27, April 24, May 22

How to contact Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs. Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance. Bilingual assistance is available.

Website: www.pastor.house.gov Email: Visit the website to send emails

Washington Office
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0302
202-225-4065

Phoenix District Office
411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-256-0551

Please send postal delivery mail to the Phoenix District Office only

Due to past incidences of anthrax-contaminated mail that was delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to the Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery, resulting in a delay of at least three weeks. Feel free to send mail instead to the Phoenix District Office.

Clip and Save

Congressman Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON REPORT
Deficit work continues
December 2011

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202-225-4065

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Congressman
Ed Pastor
WASHINGTON REPORT
Deficit work continues

Fourth Congressional District of Arizona

INSIDE

- Project rebuilds neighborhoods
- New help for underwater mortgages

December 2011

Deficit reduction work continues in Congress

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

Americans agree we need a deficit reduction plan and Congress is under pressure to develop a balanced, bipartisan proposal with large, meaningful spending cuts coupled with revenue increases from those whose incomes exceed \$1,000,000. Recent attempts to draft a proposal to significantly reduce the federal budget deficit—with a special bipartisan group of members of Congress referred to as a "super committee" - were unsuccessful. Their mandate was to achieve \$1.2 to \$1.5 trillion in savings in 10 years.

So where do we go from here?

As the chairs of the "super committee" said, it is critical to address our nation's fiscal crisis and not leave the problem for our next generation to solve. I share their hope that Congress will build on the committee's work to accomplish this task.

At the very least, lawmakers now face an automatic trigger of spending cuts in 2013 designed to save \$1.2 trillion over 10 years, unless some other plan is proposed. These would include cuts to military and domestic programs.

As work continues on a deficit-cutting proposal, we must remain focused on a balanced plan that will help grow the economy and create

jobs without ending the Medicare guarantee, severely cutting Social Security and Medicaid, or allowing billions in tax cuts for the wealthiest. Above all, we must find a way to work together.

As we address this national crisis, I am also working to bring Washington's attention to local issues of great concern.

Recently, I was able to host a visit by Shaun

Donovan, the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. He toured a neighborhood in South Mountain Village that has benefitted from federal neighborhood stabilization dollars, and asked community stakeholders for input on addressing our foreclosure crisis and mitigating its impact.

Constituents need to know their voices are being heard in Washington, and I was pleased that Sec. Donovan took the time to gather local input.

For additional information on my work in Congress and the district, please read this update. Feel free to contact my office should you have any questions or concerns.



Congressman Ed Pastor, right, recently met with Stephanie Acosta, principal of Pastor Elementary School, and Shaun Donovan, the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to discuss the impact federal neighborhood stabilization efforts have had on schools and communities with high foreclosure rates.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

New program will help with underwater mortgages



**HUD-Certified
Counseling Agencies**
Neighborhood Housing
Services of Phoenix
602-258-1659
Community Housing
Resources of Arizona
602-631-9780

A new federal program to assist homeowners who find themselves underwater with their mortgages will help eliminate barriers to refinancing, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor.

Under the plan, homeowners with loans backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac will be able to refinance at today's low interest rates, despite having little or negative equity in their homes. The changes to the Home Affordable Refinance Program would remove the cap on the amount a homeowner is underwater, lower some fees and loosen underwriting requirements. The program will be effective through Dec. 31, 2013.

Lender participation is optional. Homeowners are encouraged to contact a local HUD-certified counseling agency for guidance.

Project Rebuild would rehab foreclosed homes

A new program proposed by President Obama named Project Rebuild would build on existing efforts to help stabilize neighborhoods drowning in foreclosures, said U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, who has signed on as a cosponsor of "The Project Rebuild Act of 2011."

Project Rebuild would give Phoenix additional tools to help neighborhoods trying to rebound from the foreclosure crisis, Pastor said. The program was the focal point of a recent visit by Shaun Donovan, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to a South Mountain Village home which was rehabilitated with the help of federal funds.

During the visit, Pastor and Sec. Donovan showcased the positive impact of the federally-funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), which has granted funds to nonprofits to assist communities fraught with foreclosures. The funds are used to rehabilitate properties that have been left vacant, to be sold later to new homeowners, or used for affordable rental housing.

Phoenix was one of the hardest hit areas in

the nation and the Latino community was especially impacted, Donovan said.

Project Rebuild would build on NSP by allowing the rehabilitation of commercial properties in addition to residential, and pay for property maintenance. It would also create an estimated 6,000 jobs in Arizona, Donovan said. Project Rebuild is part of the proposed American Jobs Act, which has yet to be voted on by the full House of Representatives.



Photo above: Rep. Pastor discusses the benefits of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program with constituents.

Photo on the left: HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan (right of the U.S. flag) met with Rep. Ed Pastor, Phoenix Mayor Gordon and stakeholders to discuss "Project Rebuild" at a rehabilitated house in South Mountain Village.



Putting Arizonans back to work Small businesses encouraged to seek federal opportunities

A workshop organized by U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor gave small business owners and entrepreneurs information about federal contracting opportunities.

"Small businesses drive our economy and create jobs," Pastor said. "This workshop provided resources to business owners who are looking for additional economic opportunities to build and expand their businesses."

Representatives from the General Services Administration (GSA), Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) encouraged participants to contact the agencies for assistance

and information.

GSA, for example, oversees the business of the federal government and provides workspace to more than one million federal workers, the preservation of more than 480 historic buildings, and facilitates the purchase of high-quality, low-cost goods and services from quality commercial vendors.

[Helpful websites for small businesses](#)

www.sba.gov

www.gsa.gov/smallbizhelp

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/cpo

Congressman Ed Pastor led a workshop encouraging small business owners to partner with and/or use the federal government as a resource. He was joined by Ruth F. Cox, GSA Regional Administrator; Shivani Dubey, SBA Deputy District Director for Arizona; and William P. Shaw, SBA Field Office Director for Phoenix and Tucson.



Confused about . . . Medicare?

Prescription coverage (Medicare Part D)?

Medicaid (AHCCCS)?

Medicare Advantage (HMO) plans?

Medigap Insurance? Long Term Care?



If you are trying to make sense of different health care programs and need assistance, Congressman Pastor would like to remind you about a federally-funded program that provides a free health benefits counseling service.

People on Medicare, their families and caregivers may contact the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) for assistance.

SHIP is entrusted to educate, advocate, counsel and empower people to make informed benefit decisions. SHIP is not affiliated with the insurance industry.

State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP)
602-542-4446 or 1-800-432-4040

Federal funds will help evaluate mass transit options for South Central Avenue corridor

A \$1 million federal grant was recently awarded to METRO and the City of Phoenix to analyze various high-capacity transit alternatives for the South Central Phoenix Corridor, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor. This is the area on Central Avenue from Washington Street to Baseline Road.

Rep. Pastor said he was pleased to support the funding because demand for public transit is growing in many areas. However the process takes time and millions of local and federal dollars.

"In our sprawling Valley, the need for good public transportation is strong. Connecting people with their jobs and services through public transit is important for our quality of life."

The funds, awarded by the Federal Transit Administration, will be used to conduct an

Alternatives Analysis (AA), which consists of evaluating the feasibility of several high-capacity transit routes and modes, including light rail, bus



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor was successful in helping secure federal funding for the initial 20-mile METRO Light Rail line which opened in December 2008.

rapid transit and modern street-car.

The AA study will develop preliminary ridership forecasts, cost ranges, engineering and community issues

and economic development opportunities. The end result will be the identification of a single transit route and mode that best services the South Mountain Village community and the larger transit system.

The study is expected to take two years to complete and is the first step in the process to compete for federal capital funds for the new transit project eventually selected.

The study also will give constituents an opportunity to discuss possibilities and constraints to help put the best plan forward, Pastor said.

"Community feedback is required and really helps drive the process," Pastor said. "I urge all parties interested in this South Central Corridor to become involved when public input is solicited by METRO and the City of Phoenix."

Glendale seniors donate quilts to wounded warriors

A group of senior women who regularly meet at the Glendale Community Center recently made 30 quilts to express their gratitude to wounded warriors for their service, and to send them a sign of support that might offer them some homemade comfort while they are recovering. Congressman Pastor's Office assisted the women in contacting the Airmen and Family Readiness Center at Luke Air Force Base, which coordinated the donation. Congressman Pastor's District Director Elisa de la Vara, center, recognized the Glendale Community Center's Seniors Coordinator Virginia Cabrera, members Alice Mendoza and Julia Aguilera, and the Readiness Center's James McCarty.

